CITY OF
JERSEY CITY

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MAYOR

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Jersey City Receives $400,000 from U.S. EPA to Clean Up Contaminated Sites and Revitalize Communities

JERSEY CITY — **Mayor Jerramiah T. Healy** announced this week that the **City of Jersey City** and the **Jersey City Redevelopment Agency** have been awarded a combined **$400,000** towards two revitalization cleanup projects on the Dwight and Ocean Site and in Berry Lane Park. Each project was allocated $200,000 in funding.

The EPA award is part of more than $76 million in new investments across the country announced earlier this week that will redevelop contaminated properties, boost local economies and help create jobs while protecting public health will be awarded to municipalities across the nation.

In a recent statement, the EPA explained that the brownfields grants are used to assess and clean up abandoned industrial and commercial properties like deserted gas stations or closed smelters. These investments help leverage redevelopment, promote economic growth and lead to job creation. Brownfields grants also target under-served and economically disadvantaged neighborhoods – places where environmental cleanups and new jobs are most needed.

"During this 'New Great Depression,' it is imperative that we do all we can to stimulate the local economy, help improve our neighborhoods, and spur job growth," said **Mayor Healy**. "With the help of these funds from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, we are able to clean up our City, find jobs for our residents which are vital in keeping Jersey City moving forward towards a more sustainable future."

The Berry Park Lane Project is one of the most ambitious open space projects in the City's history. The Berry Lane Park project will result in a 9% increase in usable open space for Jersey City residents. Encompassing some 13.5 acres, the park will be both active and passive in nature. A "Brownfield to Greenfield" project, the park will be built on former rail yards, auto repair shops and warehouses. When complete, it will be one of the largest parks in the City's inventory.

The JCRA has received additional EPA funding for this project, including a $200,000 Brownfield Assessment grant for Phase I and II environmental studies and a $600,000 grant for cleanup. The latest $200,000 allocation will be used for soil remediation. Additionally, the County of Hudson announced a $3.2 million grant for land acquisition for the park. For the park's designs and master plan visit: http://www.dresdnerrobin.com/berrylanepark

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The second $200,000 award will be used to clean up the site on Dwight and Ocean. Originally, this site was said to have formerly been a gas station that required remediation and clean up of leaking tanks. In the Phase II report of the project, environmental consultants from Dewberry, discovered a larger problem. In isolating the contamination, they discovered the site formerly hosted a dry cleaning business which remnants left higher levels of contamination.

Currently, the project is utilizing the EPA Petroleum Assessment grant and monies allocated from CDBG. The JCRA is actively seeking additional funding sources to help with project completion. The developers, Genesis Partners, plan on building 64 units of affordable housing. This tax credit project is projected to begin in August of this year and construction to commence in late summer/early fall of 2012.

"This project will not only complete the aesthetic appeal of this neighborhood, but will result in the creation of more affordable housing for our residents," said **Mayor Healy**. "My administration continues to work hard to make Jersey City greater and more affordable for all of our residents."

All media inquiries should be directed to Jennifer Morrill, Press Secretary to Mayor Jerramiah T. Healy at 201-547-4836 or 201-376-0699.///